

Patricia A. Ambrose

Deposition

May 10, 2005

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<p>1 Q. Okay. What else do you remember about the 2 wife? 3 A. That's about it. 4 Q. Do you remember her saying anything else? 5 A. I don't recall. 6 Q. Okay. And -- and how about Mr. Allen? What 7 else do you remember about him? 8 A. I don't know. 9 Q. Okay. I'm just curious. I don't -- I don't 10 want you to make up any memories. I'm just curious if 11 you -- 12 A. I wouldn't make up a memory. 13 Q. -- if you do remember anything else. Do you 14 remember whether or not he said -- did he -- do you 15 remember anything about whether or not he was 16 nauseous, whether or not he said he had been vomiting, 17 anything like that? 18 A. I don't recall. 19 Q. Okay. Would you have written down that his 20 head was hurting if he hadn't told you that? 21 A. If he hadn't told me that? 22 Q. Yeah. 23 A. Why would I write it down? 24 Q. Right. So -- so when you say "ears and head 25 are hurting," that would be information that he gave</p>	<p>1 Q. Okay. Well, was he giggling when he was 2 there? 3 A. No. 4 Q. Okay. What -- what was he doing? 5 A. Sitting there. 6 Q. Okay. And so -- so you -- so you kind of 7 determined that you didn't think he had a pain level 8 of ten. Is that correct? 9 A. Yes. 10 Q. Okay. And what did you think his pain level 11 was? 12 A. I can't base pain on someone. 13 Q. Okay. Well, you triaged this patient to the 14 urgent care center. Is that correct? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. And you gave him a triage level of four. Is 17 that right? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. And why did you do that? 20 A. Because he didn't look severe enough to go 21 to the other side. 22 Q. Okay. And so if he went to the UCC, he was 23 going to be seen by either an ANP or a PA. Is that 24 correct? 25 A. Yes.</p>
<p>1 you? 2 A. Yes. 3 Q. And then it also says that he was up all 4 night. Is that information that he gave you? 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. And then P equals ten. Is that the pain 7 level? 8 A. Yes. 9 Q. All right. So -- and then it says "sitting 10 with ease." What -- what does that mean? 11 A. He was sitting. 12 Q. Okay. You wrote down "pain contract." 13 Where did you get that information? 14 A. From Todd. 15 Q. Okay. And what do you remember him saying 16 about that? 17 A. That he was on a pain contract. 18 Q. Anything else? 19 A. No. 20 Q. Did -- was -- is -- he reports a pain level 21 of ten. Did you decide that he didn't have a pain 22 level of ten, or did you think he had a pain level of 23 ten? 24 A. By the way he was sitting, no, he didn't 25 look to be in a ten.</p>	<p>1 Q. He wasn't going to be seen by a physician. 2 Is that right? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. And what is the -- what's the Level 4 5 triage, generally? Like what does that mean if 6 they're at a Level 4, as opposed to 1, 2, or 3? 7 A. That he can be seen on the UCC side. 8 Q. What else does it mean, in terms of how long 9 they can wait or whether or not they really need 10 urgent care? 11 A. It doesn't. 12 Q. It doesn't? 13 A. It means you just put them in the front of 14 the rack. 15 Q. When we were talking about the five acuity 16 levels, it sounded like, you know, patients who are 17 one, they got to be seen now; two, almost as soon they 18 need to be seen; three, they can wait a little bit; 19 four, they can wait. Is that correct? 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. So in your determination, this is a 22 patient -- didn't need to be seen emergently. He 23 could just -- he could wait. Is that correct? 24 A. Yes. 25 Q. Who else was on shift with you that day?</p>

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1 Q. Okay. But did you have some judgment of him
 2 on -- on the morning of April 19th after you found out
 3 he had a pain contract and you felt like you
 4 recognized him?

5 A. No.

6 Q. How often do patients come in to the ER with
 7 pain contracts?

8 A. They usually tell us if they're on a pain
 9 contract.

10 Q. And Todd Allen, in fact, told you he was on
 11 a pain --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- contract. Is that right?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. Did he ask you for any medication?

16 A. No. They're very honest there.

17 Q. And when you say "they're very honest," what
 18 do you mean?

19 A. The patients that are on pain contracts tell
 20 us.

21 Q. Okay. Who would have written down the
 22 disposition of the case; that is, the discharge, the
 23 departure time?

24 A. Susie Edwards.

25 Q. Okay. And how do you know that?

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1 A. Her initials, Susie Edwards.

2 Q. Okay. And is that under the RN?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what -- what -- what role would she
 5 play? I mean, what would she do?

6 A. She was the nurse.

7 Q. And so what does that mean?

8 A. She was the nurse when he was put in the
 9 room. She was his nurse.

10 Q. Okay. And so what kinds of things would she
 11 be doing? Would she be the one giving him the
 12 Phenergan shot?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. So if he needed any kind of either
 15 medication or shot or something, she would be the one
 16 doing that. Is that right?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. And she's the one that would kind of
 19 escort him out or --

20 A. Discharge him.

21 Q. Okay. Can you tell -- do you recognize
 22 Susie Edward's signature or -- not signature but
 23 writing? Do you -- I guess my question is: Do you
 24 know whether or not she's written anywhere else in
 25 this form aside from the disposition of case?

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1 A. Right here (indicating).

2 Q. Okay. And "right here" meaning --

3 A. Where she gave the Phenergan.

4 Q. Okay. So there's a -- a note by the
 5 Phenergan. And what does that say?

6 A. At 0800 in the right gluteus.

7 Q. Okay. And so that would be her signature as
 8 well?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. All right. So did you have any contact with
 11 Mrs. Allen at any other point during that -- that day,
 12 April 19th?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay. Had you had any -- do you recall
 15 having any contact at all with Mrs. Allen at any time
 16 while you were working at ANMC, aside from the morning
 17 of April 19th?

18 A. No. I believe that's the first time I have
 19 seen her.

20 Q. Okay. Do you remember whether or not she
 21 was pregnant that morning or --

22 A. I don't recall.

23 Q. When you -- going back to the -- your task
 24 as a triage nurse. When you first see the patient in
 25 the room by the waiting room, does the patient stay in

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1 that room, or do you take them to a different room if
 2 they're going to the UCC?

3 A. They wait out front in the waiting room.

4 Q. Okay. So you see them in the triage room,
 5 and then you take them back to the waiting room?

6 A. Tell them to go wait out front, yes.

7 Q. Is that correct? Okay. Do you tell the
 8 patient that you're going to send them to the urgent
 9 care center as opposed to the emergency department?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Okay. Do you tell them that they're going
 12 see a mid-level practitioner as opposed to a
 13 physician?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Are they -- is the patient given anything
 16 kind of telling them that they're going to go to the
 17 UCC versus the ER?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Who gets the patient's chart? Do you do
 20 that, or does the clerk?

21 A. Clerk.

22 Q. Do you remember whether or not you had --
 23 does -- I mean, does sometimes it happen where they
 24 just can't locate the patient's chart?

25 A. Yes.